

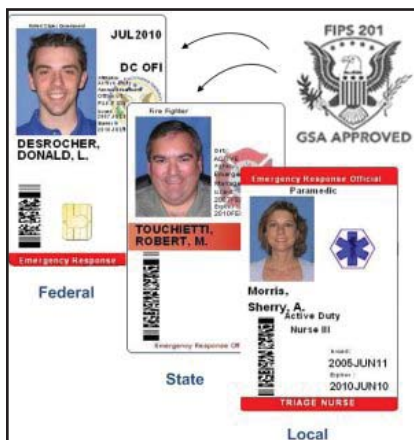
## Preparedness and Planning

### DHS Releases Two Important Preparedness Documents

On September 13, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced the release of two important tools to organize and synchronize national efforts to strengthen preparedness: (1) the *National Preparedness Guidelines*, which establish a vision for national preparedness and provide a systematic approach for prioritizing preparedness efforts across the nation; and (2) the *Target Capabilities List*, which describes the collective national capabilities required to prevent, protect against, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies.

### Getting Smart IDs to First Responders

A group of smart-card technology companies have formed a consortium to put affordable smart identification cards into the hands of first responders at the state and local levels. The companies will provide hard-



ware, software and services free or at steep discounts to cut the cost of deploying interoperable cards by as much as 75 percent. The program is open to first-responder organizations such as law enforcement, fire, hazmat, rescue and public health agencies in the United States and its territories, in addition to private-sector utilities, communications and transportation companies that operate critical infrastructure. Organizations should register online for the program by December 31. Priority will be given to the first 500 organizations to register.

### DHS Launches Initiatives to Strengthen Private Aircraft Security

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced new efforts to further improve aircraft security in the United States. DHS is working to strengthen security associated with private aircraft by publishing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking which will require more detailed information about arriving and departing private aircraft and persons onboard within a timeframe necessary to assess the risks that certain flights may pose to national security.

### Population Monitoring in Radiation Emergencies

Population monitoring is the process of identifying, screening, and monitoring people for exposure to radiation or contamination from radioactive materials. This planners' guide presents an introduction to population monitoring in radiation emergencies for public health officials and emergency preparedness planners at the state and local levels. It describes how to plan for population monitoring and provides practical suggestions to address the many challenges it presents when a large population is potentially impacted.

## News

### Promising Pandemic Practices

The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) and their project partners set out in July 2006 to identify, collect, and review promising practices in pandemic influenza preparedness to save time and spare resources in the public health system. The 130-plus practices collected on their new website represent a first step toward achieving that goal. See page 3 for more information.

### Hand Sanitizer Advertisement Makes False Claims?

Vicks® *Early Defense Foaming Hand Sanitizer* claims to prevent colds and provides up to three hours of antimicrobial activity. The FDA has stated that those claims are unsupported, and therefore not allowed. See page 5 for more information.

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Read the Next *Guardian* Issue:  
October 12, 2007

## MDCH Urges Public to Get Flu Shot

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) is gearing up for the 2007-2008 influenza season by making special efforts to reach out to high-risk individuals including children in need of a second dose of influenza vaccine. Vaccine manufacturers expect shipments to be made on-time this year and MDCH is urging providers, local health departments, and community vaccinators to begin their important work. "The single best way to prevent the flu is to get vaccinated each year," said Dr. Greg Holzman, State Chief Medical Executive.



## 2007-2008 Influenza Vaccine Production and Distribution

The process of getting influenza vaccine where it needs to go is complex. This [vodcast \(video podcast\)](#) is intended to walk clinicians, public health partners, and other vaccinators through the process, providing a better understanding of vaccine distribution.

## Influenza Vaccine Exchange Network

The Influenza Vaccine Exchange Network (IVEN) is a centralized location on the Michigan Care Improvement Registry where local health departments (LHDs), health care providers, institutions, and other end-users can share their influenza vaccine inventory information to facilitate vaccine redistribution, should shortages occur. IVEN can be used to post and search for surplus or needed influenza vaccine inventory. Data posted on IVEN are to be used by licensed physicians, their staff, LHD officials, Visiting Nurses Association members, home health care agencies, pharmacy staff, nursing homes, hospitals, and other health care or vaccine providers.

# Communications

## Be Red Cross Ready

While the Red Cross and their partners are committed to lending a helping hand to those in need, assistance may be delayed in times of disaster. That's why it's important for you and your family to "[Be Red Cross Ready](#)" by completing three easy steps: get a kit, make a plan, and be informed.



## Multilingual Vaccine Information Statements

Vaccine Information Statements (VIS) are information sheets produced by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that explain both the benefits and risks to vaccine recipients, their parents, or their legal representatives. Federal law requires that VIS be handed out whenever certain vaccinations are given. The Michigan Department of Community Health has listed VISs in a variety of languages on their [immunization website](#). Languages available include: English, Arabic, Bosnian, Burmese, Chinese, German, Hindi, Japanese, Punjabi, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese.

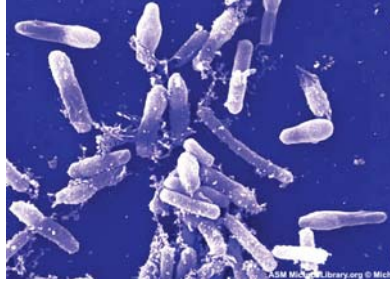
## CDC Has New Flu Website

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has launched a new [influenza website](#). The site has key information about influenza as well as an area specifically designed for health professionals. The site is available in a range of languages including Spanish, Vietnamese, and Chinese.

# Surveillance

## Anthrax in Children Research

Researchers reviewed the medical literature for anthrax case reports published between 1900 and 2005 in persons younger than 18 years of age. The researchers found four key findings. First, children with anthrax may present with a wider range of clinical symptoms than previously recognized and which may not track with those observed in adult patients. Mortality rates among children with inhalational and gastrointestinal anthrax and anthrax meningoencephalitis are high, possibly higher than that observed in adult populations. Third, anthrax is reported relatively rarely in the youngest children and in girls. Finally, there is no evidence to support or refute the claim that children may be less susceptible to anthrax infection.



## Mutation Fears in Bird Flu Outbreak

Nearly 10,000 ducks that died of bird flu at farms in Guangzhou (China) had been vaccinated against the disease, sparking fears that the deadly H5N1 virus may have mutated. Dr. Ho Pak-leung, an infectious disease expert at Hong Kong University, said there were worries the virus had mutated or the vaccine had not been effective. Lo Wing-lok, another infectious disease expert, called for a ban on the import of ducks from areas around Guangzhou's Panyu district.

## Revised Recommendations for Influenza Detection

The World Health Organization (WHO) has released a revised edition of "Recommendations and Laboratory Procedures for Detection of Avian Influenza A(H5N1) Virus in Specimens from Suspected Human Cases." The document is available online.

## UN Helps Indonesia with Three-Year Bird Flu Plan

A group of international health experts from the United Nations (UN) has drafted a three-year program for Indonesia aimed at containing the spread of bird flu. The disease is now endemic among poultry there, and chickens are a common backyard feature in the country, which has suffered the highest number of human deaths from bird flu in the world.

## Indonesia Questioned Over Bird Flu Preparedness

Officials from the United Nations' Avian and Human Influenza program are in Bali for a two-day meeting with the Indonesian government. They are assessing ways to improve the country's programs to prevent bird flu from spreading.

# Pandemic Planning

## Promising Pandemic Practices Website Launched

Public health agencies, healthcare delivery systems, and those involved in other areas of public service have been working diligently over the past few years on pandemic influenza preparedness efforts as part of all-hazards emergency response planning. There is a pressing need to identify and share promising practices across the United States. The Center for Infectious Disease Research and Policy (CIDRAP) and their project partners set out in July 2006 to identify, collect, and review promising practices in pandemic influenza preparedness to save time and spare resources in the public health system. The 130-plus

practices collected on their [new website](#) represent a first step toward achieving that goal. The practices included focus on three main categories: Changing Models for Care, Communications, and Community Disease Mitigation. CIDRAP recognized Michigan's "[Pandemic Influenza Toolkit for Educators](#)", a collaboration between the Michigan Departments of Community Health and Education, as a best practice. The toolkit is a one-stop shop for pandemic preparedness information needed by every school.

### **Planning Checklists Released for Law Enforcement and Correctional Facilities**

Two new checklists have been published on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' pandemic influenza website. There are now influenza planning checklists for both corrections facilities and law enforcement. The checklists are available [online](#).

### **Iomai Launches Safety Study for Pandemic Influenza Vaccine**

Iomai Corporation announced that it has begun a study that will assess the safety and dose-sparing capability of the company's [immunostimulant patch](#) when used in combination with an injected H5N1 influenza vaccine. The Iomai patch, which contains a powerful immune-stimulating adjuvant, is used in conjunction with an injected influenza vaccine and may generate an immune response with small amounts of vaccine antigen. If successful, Iomai's approach may expand the pandemic influenza vaccine supply in the event of an influenza pandemic. This clinical trial is funded through an advanced development contract from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

## **Regional News**

### **Saginaw County's Biohazard Drill a Success**

On September 20, the Saginaw police, firefighters, sheriff's deputies, the Office of Emergency Management, Department of Public Health, Mobile Medical Response, and Central Dispatch helped the post office stage a simulated biohazard emergency. The drill scenario simulated the emergency response for anthrax detection. As a regional distribution center -- a clearinghouse where all of the region's mail goes before it's sent to the smaller post offices -- Saginaw's South Washington post office branch is equipped with an anthrax detection meter on its cancellation machines. When a machine detects a biohazard, the building's ventilation system shuts down and employees report to a rally point for roll call, so the Postal Service can account for everyone's whereabouts. Because the contaminated piece could have gone through the system 60 or 90 minutes earlier, postal workers must identify the trucks that have gone out in that time and call them back or quarantine them where they are. If there were any customers in the branch lobby, they also would go through quarantine, decontamination and medical procedures. The U.S. Postal Services gave Saginaw County's biohazard team glowing praise for the drill. "I'm very impressed with their professionalism," said Postmaster Jacques S. Vican. "They're very well prepared."

*Excerpted from LaNia Coleman / The Saginaw News*



### **Regional Patient Tracking System Utilized During Real Event**

Region 2 North successfully employed the regional patient tracking system during the Selfridge Air Show held at Selfridge Air National Guard Base on July 20 – July 24. The event drew over 100,000 spectators. Universal Macomb Ambulance and Medstar Ambulance used the system developed by Region 2 North and Salamander Technologies. Over the course of the weekend, EMS field personnel entered patient information data into the system to monitor status



of patient location and number of patients treated. Although the majority of patients were treated and released, personnel who managed the command center viewed the system as an excellent asset. All participants agreed that the system worked extremely well and would have proven to be invaluable had there been a large multi-casualty incident.

## Other News

### What's that Acronym?

Ever wonder what MSP or AAA stands for? It is common for organizations to abbreviate their names to something easier to use, an acronym. Use this handy [online tool](#) to find out what any acronym, abbreviation, or initialism stands for.

### NRC Publishes Reactor Security Report

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has made available to the public an unclassified version of an [annual report](#) to Congress outlining the previous year's security inspection program. The report covers the security inspection program, including force-on-force exercises for commercial power reactors and certain fuel cycle facilities for calendar year 2006.

### Aerosol Spray to Identify Bombing Suspects

Forensic chemists at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem have developed a [color-changing spray](#) that can identify people suspected of making or planting bombs. The chemical turns from yellow to bright red when it comes into contact with urea nitrate, an explosive residue that may be left behind on the hands of someone who has handled an improvised device.

### FDA Warns about Hand Sanitizer Ad Claims

Federal health officials have warned Procter & Gamble (P&G) that it is unlawfully marketing a new hand sanitizer aimed for use by children. P&G claims that Vicks® *Early Defense Foaming Hand Sanitizer* prevents colds and provides up to three hours of antimicrobial activity. These claims are not allowed, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned in a letter made public on September 18. The FDA said it knows of no significant health risks associated with the product, but they're concerned because the product has not been proven safe and effective for the claims made by P&G. A spokesman for P&G states that the FDA claims have merit and they will work with FDA to clear up any misconceptions.



Photo by Kathy Popelka



Photo by Danny Klauss

## Training & Education

Date / Time	Event	Location
Oct. 3, 2007 9am-2pm	<b>Michigan Avian Influenza Rapid Response Workshops</b> This series of workshops will be used to review avian influenza response plans, familiarize participants with communication protocols of outside agencies, increase interagency response coordination, and to educate participants on the Safe Work Practices guidelines for avian influenza. Seating is limited. For more information, including registration details, please see the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> .	Livonia
Oct. 5, 2007	<b><u>Pandemic Influenza Summit</u></b> National and regional experts will explore the characteristics of pandemic influenza, its medical implications, and possible ways to minimize its effect on business, the economy and everyday life.	Wayne State Univ. Gordon H. Scott Hall 540 E. Canfield Detroit, MI
Oct. 9, 2007 Oct. 11 Oct. 30 Nov. 1 Nov. 7 Nov. 8 Nov. 14 Nov. 15	<b>MDCH Immunization Conferences</b> This conference will update health care professionals on immunization issues that affect people of all ages - from infants to the elderly and everyone in-between. Each of these one-day conferences will provide participants with a variety of practice-management tools, techniques, and information that will help assure that all of their patients are fully and appropriately immunized. More information, including registration details, is <a href="#">available online</a> .	Marquette Gaylord East Lansing Troy Kalamazoo Kalamazoo Detroit Ypsilanti
Oct. 11, 2007 10:15-11:15am	<b>Mass Evacuation to Rural Communities II</b> After viewing <a href="#">this program</a> , participants will be able to: recognize potential issues related to spontaneous evacuation to rural areas, identify actions that can be taken by rural planners to mitigate the impact of a spontaneous evacuation and utilize a tool to predict community population surge following potential urban disasters.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Oct. 11, 2007 12-1pm	<b>Travel Health Issues Including Malaria</b> Immunization NetConferences are live, 1-hour presentations combining an online visual presentation with simultaneous audio via telephone conference call and a live question and answer session. Register for this free event <a href="#">online</a> ; participants must be pre-registered and space is limited.	NetConference
Oct. 17, 2007 9am-4:45pm	<b>Disasters Roundtable</b> <a href="#">This workshop</a> will consider what has been learned about disaster recovery from both scientific research and the experience of policy makers and practitioners. Historical and recent recovery actions following such events as the September 11 terrorist attacks and Hurricane Katrina will be discussed, along with examples of both pre and post-disaster recovery planning.	Washington, D.C.

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date / Time	Event	Location
Oct. 24, 2007 1-2:30pm	<b>Collaboration: The Key to Public Health System Improvement</b> The <a href="#">presentation</a> will address how collaboration relates to the Ten Essential Public Health Services and why it is at the core of a major paradigm change in public health. It will also cover the essential elements to collaboration and the skills needed to be successful. The faculty will discuss current trends that public health is facing and how those are expanding the need for community-based collaborations and, finally, how collaboration is an essential element in improving public health performance.	OPHP * Large Training Room (517) 335-8150
Oct. 25-26, 2007	<b>Is Your Health Center Prepared for an Emergency?</b> Having a quality emergency preparedness plan is essential for maintaining services! This course will provide the knowledge, tools and resources needed to put a comprehensive plan together. See the <a href="#">informational flyer</a> for more information.	Michigan State Univ. <a href="#">Henry Center</a> 3535 Forest Road Lansing, MI 48910 (517) 353-4350
Oct. 29-31, 2007	<b>End-to-End Preparedness for Pandemic Influenza</b> In its second year, <a href="#">this conference</a> has become a major gathering place where representatives from the nation's public health authorities, the biopharmaceutical industry, contract manufacturing organizations, distribution firms and the first responder community come together explore the opportunities for public-private collaboration.	Washington, D.C.
Oct. 29, 2007 Nov. 19, 2007 8:30am-4:30pm	<b>Applied Incident Command for Public Health</b> This highly interactive <a href="#">course</a> designed to give public health professionals the opportunity to experience the Incident Command System (ICS) in an instructive setting. During the morning, participants will be led through a food-borne illness event from the vantage point of a public health responder. The afternoon will provide participants with the opportunity to discuss, in small groups, the process of an ICS-based response to a public health emergency. There is no fee for this course.	Saginaw Lansing
Nov. 16, 2007	<b>Limited Healthcare Resources: Prioritizing Access in a Community Emergency, Cross-Border Perspectives</b> The full-day program will examine, with audience participation, U.S. and Canadian perspectives on equitable allocation of scarce medical resources. What legal, medical, ethical and political factors come into play as prioritization models for limited distribution are designed and implemented? Registration details and materials will be available early fall 2007. Please contact the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy at (716) 645-2102 to register or for more information.	TBD
Dec. 6, 2007 1-2:30pm	<b>Mass Antibiotic Dispensing: Taking Care of Business</b> This <a href="#">broadcast</a> will focus on the development of these public-private partnerships. Panelists will discuss methods for locating and reaching-out to businesses and identify significant challenges, possible solutions, and opportunities involved in this type of community outreach. In addition, business leaders and public health professionals will share their experiences in forming these partnerships.	OPHP * Library (517) 355-8150

\* Please contact OPHP at least 24 hours prior to the broadcast.

Date / Time	Event	Location
Dec. 13, 2007	<b>Surveillance of Vaccine-Preventable Diseases</b> This <a href="#">course</a> provides guidelines for vaccine-preventable disease surveillance, case investigation, and outbreak control. Registration will open closer to the course date.	Webcast
Feb. 28-29, 2008 Mar. 5-6, 2008	<b>Basic Public Information Officers' Workshop</b> This is a two-day workshop for entry-level or less experienced disaster Public Information Officers and staff, emphasizing the skills needed to manage crisis information in emergency and disaster events. Topics include responsibilities of a Public Information Officer in disasters, effective media interviews, crisis information planning, and Joint Information Center (JIC) management. More information forthcoming.	Gaylord Lansing
May 19-22, 2008	<b>Effective Managing Transit Emergencies</b> This <a href="#">course</a> will provide information on understanding the importance, purpose, development, and implementation of emergency management and how it relates to the other safety functions of a transit system. Participants will learn how to better understand the emergency management concept and the role of the transit system in responding to emergency/disaster situations in both the community and transit system. Materials fee is \$55.	Grand Rapids, MI
Jun. 12, 2008	Behavioral Mental Health Conference Save the Date! More details to follow.	Lansing Center 333 E. Michigan Ave. Lansing, MI 48933 T: (517) 483-7400



Photo by Mark Ratzenberger



Photo by Tracey L. Warner



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